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ing of undesirables should not continue, and until it is certain that consanguineous marriages are to be approved, their prohibition by the state can occasion but little hardship.

WILLIAM B. BAILEY.

Yale University.

Official Year Book of the Commonwealth of Australia, 1901-1907.

By G. H. KNIBBS. (Melbourne: McCarren, Bird and Company, 1908. Pp. 931).

This book contains "authoritative" statistics for the period 1901-1907 and corrected statistics for the period 1788 to 1900. It is published under authority of the Minister of Home Affairs, and is an excellent compendium of financial, economic and social statistics, well arranged and thoroughly indexed. The author is a fellow of the Royal Statistical Society and is Commonwealth Statistician.

Sections cover: History of Australian Statistics; Federation and Federal Registration; the Australian Commonwealth and Australian Population; Vital Statistics; Land Tenure and Settlement; Pastoral Production; Agricultural Production; Farmyard and Dairy Production; Forestry and Forestal Products; Fisheries and Pisciculture; Mines and Mining; Manufacturing Industries; Water Conservation and Irrigation; Commerce; Shipping; Roads and Railways; Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones; Commonwealth Finance; State Finance; Private Finance; Public Instruction; Public Justice; Public Benevolence; General Government; Industrial Unionism and Industrial Legislation; Defence; and Miscellaneous.

There are maps and charts.

Subsequent Year Books are planned to continue the statistics, but will not republish those collated here.

C. C. P.

The Iron Heel. By JACK LONDON. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1908. Pp. xiv, 354.)

This book is a social romance in some regards on the lines of *Looking Backward*. It purports to be a manuscript written

between the years 1912 and 1932 and published several hundred years later. It gives an imaginary account of the rapid progress which socialism is supposed to make in this period, and of its forcible repression by the ruling class, whose conduct, organization and pitiless tyranny (continued, as the editor explains, for several centuries), causes it to be denominated *The Iron Heel*. The first half of the book is in part given to a radical arraignment of existing evils, in part to a prosey rehash of the worst of Marxian economics. The hero who, the author assures us, is a profound philosopher, is distinguished by rudeness of manner, crudeness of ideas, and sublime confidence in the verity of socialistic fallacies. The last half of the book is a nightmare of intrigue and bloodshed.

It is difficult to determine what the author's purpose in writing such a book could be. As a romance it is insufferably dull and almost unpardonable, coming from the gifted pen of the author of *The Call of the Wild*. As a book for socialist propaganda it is far less persuasive than many an existing tract; and its picture of the results of socialistic agitation will appear to some as grotesquely incredible and to others as frightfully repellant. This danger is recognized by the more thoughtful socialists and a word of caution to those who have welcomed this book as a great addition to the socialist literature is given by Mr. John Spargo in a recent number of the *International Socialist Review*. As a prophecy, the book must appear to both liberal and conservative students, as most impossible, absurdly misinterpreting the trend of things toward greater toleration, greater liberty and humaner sentiments.

FRANK A. FETTER.

Cornell University.

The Common Sense of the Milk Question. By JOHN SPARGO. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1908. Pp. xiv, 351. \$1.50).

This volume is for the lay reader and treats of the politico-social aspects of a problem which has a very intricate scientific and technical side. The title and preface lead one to believe that the whole milk question in its broader aspects is presented, but such is not the case. About four-fifths of the volume is a plea for infants' milk dépôts, and though thus limited it should have a wide